

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 01814 01 OF 02 211354Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 OC-06
CCO-00 MCT-01 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 SSM-03 COME-00
TRSE-00 ACDA-12 SCS-06 OMB-01 CU-04 PC-01 AID-05
/117 W

-----106672 211424Z /45

R 211221Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7078
USIA WASHDC
DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WASHDC
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
USINT BAGHDAD
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TEHRAN 1814

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS SHUM IR
SUBJ: TABRIZ RIOTS:AFTERMATH

REF: A. TEHRAN 1710, B. TEHRAN 1762

SUMMARY: MEDIA COVERAGE HAS EXPANDED. GOI SAYS 6 WERE
KILLED, 125 WOUNDED IN TABRIZ VIOLENCE AND MOBS WERE WELL
ORGANIZED. TABRIZ AUTHORITIES HAVE RECEIVED A MESSAGE TO
RELEASE PRISONERS OR THERE WILL BE MORE TROUBLE. GOI MINISTER
OF STATE FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS RAMBOD TOLD MAJLES THAT
RINGLEADERS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS "KNOWN COMMUNISTS".
SENATORS CALL FOR TOUGHER ACTION AGAINST RIOTERS. IMPERIAL
INVESTIGATION OF TABRIZ SITUATION HAS BEGUN. SCATTERED INCI-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 01814 01 OF 02 211354Z

DENTS CCCURRED ELSEWHERE IN IRAN MOST RECENTLY AT QOM.
TEHRAN UNIVERSITIES EXPERIENCE MINOR DISTURBANCES FEB 20,
AND INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL WALL IN TEHRAN PAINTED WITH SLOGANS.
END SUMMARY.

1. FEB 20 AND 21 PRESS IN TEHRAN CARRIED MAJOR STORIES ON
TABRIZ RIOTS. ENGLISH LANGUAGE KEYHAN FEATURED PICTURE

SPREAD WHICH PRETTY MUCH CONFIRMS DESTRUCTION REPORTED REFTELS. GOI HAS STATED THERE WERE SIX KILLED AND 125 INJURED. RUMOR HAS IT THAT MANY MORE DIED AND OTHERS WERE INJURED, BUT SOLID INFO NOT AVAILABLE. AFTER THOROUGH TOUR OF TABRIZ FEB 20, CONSUL METRINKO HAS INDICATED THAT DESTRUCTION OF COMMERCIAL DISTRICT WAS MORE WIDESPREAD THAN HE THOUGHT, EXTENDING ALONG THE MAIN AXIS OF THE CITY, AN AREA OF ABOUT EIGHT MILES BY FOUR MILES. PERSIAN PRESS STRESSED BAD ECONOMIC IMPACT WHICH WIDESPREAD DESTRUCTION OF BANK AND COMMERCIAL RECORDS WILL HAVE ON CITY AND REGION.

2. PRESS FEB 21 ANNOUNCED FORMATION OF IMPERIAL COMMISSIIIN OF INQUIRY TO INVESTIGATE EVENTS AT TABRIZ, AND US CONSUL THERE REPORTS COMMISSION IN PLACE AND WORKING FEB 21. NAMES OF GROUP NOT YET KNOWN. ACCORDING TO CONSUL, UNOFFICIAL STORY GOING AROUND WELL PLACED CIRCLES IS THAT TABRIZ AUTHORITIES HAVE RECEIVED FOUR SEPARATE "MESSAGES" TO RELEASE ALL PRISONERS HELD OR CITY WILL EXPLODE AGAIN. GOI REMAINS TIGHT LIPPED ABOUT NUMBERS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY, AND CONSUL WAS TOLD PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR OR HIS DEPUTY SHOULD HENCEFORTH BE HIS BASIC CONTACTS ON MATTERS RELATED TO DEMONSTRATIONS/RIOTS.

3. PARLIAMENTARY DISCUSSION OF TABRIZ RIOT IN TEHRAN CENTERED AROUND MINISTER OF STATE HOLAKU RAMBOD'S REPORT TO MAJLES ON INCIDENT, INCLUDING STATEMENT (UNSUPPORTED BY FURTHER EVIDENCE) THAT RINGLEADERS OF THE PLOT HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS "KNOWN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEHRAN 01814 01 OF 02 211354Z

COMMUNISTS". HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT "THOSE WHO DID SUCH DESTRUCTION WERE NOT IRANIAN". THE GOI GOI WOULD DEAL WITH THIS LAWLESS VIOLENCE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ITS LEGAL DUTIES AND POWERS, HE CONCLUDED. RAMBOD WAS REPLYING TO COMMENTS BY MANY MAJLES DEPUTIES AND SEVERAL SENATORS DEPLORING VIOLENCE. TEHRAN SENATOR ALI REZA'I, JOINED BY OTHERS, CRITICIZED THE GOI'S LACK OF FOREKNOWLEDGE OF EVENTS AND CALLED FOR STERNER MEASURES AGAINST "HOOLIGANS". HE CRITICIZED LENIENCY SHOWN BY COURT IN RECENT CASES WHERE STUDENTS WERE MERELY FINED FOR BREACHES OF PEACE. (COINCIDENTALLY, PRESS FEB 21 ANNOUNCED TEN STUDENTS HAD BEEN CONVICTED AND FINED 30,000 RIALS EACH (DOLS 440) FOR TEIR PART IN DEC 21 1977 DISTURBANCES IN TEHRAN).

4. QUIET HAS REIGNED IN OTHER MAJOR CITIES, EXCEPT IN QOM, WHERE FEB 21 PRESS REPORTS A MOB "CHANTING ANTI-NATIONAL SLOGANS". ATTACKED A HOSPITAL. NO MOTIVE WAS GIVEN. SOTRIES CONTINUE THAT THERE WAS EXTENSIVE TROUBLE IN QOM ON FEB 19,BUT DETAILS ARE VAGUE, AND RUMORED EVENTS THERE MAY NOT HAVE VEEN VERY SERIOUS, IF IN FACT THEY TOOK PLACE AT ALL.

5. CONSULATE ISFAHAN HAS LEARNED THAT THERE WAS A SMALL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 01814 02 OF 02 211347Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 OC-06
CCO-00 MCT-01 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 SSM-03 COME-00
TRSE-00 ACDA-12 SCS-06 OMB-01 CU-04 PC-01 AID-05
/117 W

-----106613 211425Z /45

R 211221Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7079

USIA WASHDC

DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WASHDC

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

USINT BAGHDAD

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TEHRAN 1814

DEMONSTRATION AT ISFAHAN UNIVERSITY FEB 18, BUT IT PASSED
WITHOUT INCIDENT, AND THE ISFAHAN BAZAAR REMAINS RELAXED AND IS
NOW TWO-THIRDS OPEN. MINOR CONCERN AROSE FEB 21 WHEN GROUP
OF ARMED YOUNG MEN IN GENDARMERIE KHAKI WERE SEEN AROUND
CENTRAL POLICE STATION, BUT CITY SECURITY CHIEF INFORMED
CONSUL MCGAFFEY THAT THIS WAS ROUTINE GUARD DUTY TRAINING.

6. SHIRAZ CONSULATE REPORTS CITY HAS REMAINED QUIET, AND
RUMORED SHOOTING (REPORTED REF B) WAS NOT FATAL; BLOOD AT
UNIVERSITY WAS SPILLED BY VIGOROUS HEAD-BASHING AND WAS
SWIFTLY CLEANED OFF. BAZAAR IS QUIET AND OPEN.

7. IN TEHRAN, EB 20 SAW MINOR DEMONSTRATIONS AT TEHRAN
AND NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES, ONLY NOTEWORTHY ELEMENT OF WHICH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 01814 02 OF 02 211347Z

WAS THEIR SIMULTANEOUS 10 A.M. STARTING TIME, WHICH MOVED ONE PROFESSOR TO COMMENT THAT THE AGITATORS WERE SIMPLY TESTING OUT THEIR ABILITY TO COORDINATE THINGS. AT ABOUT SAME LEVEL WAS DEMONSTRATION AT TEHRAN TECHNICAL COLLEGE, WHERE AUTHORITIES CLOSED GATES, RELEASING ONLY FACULTY UNTIL APPARENTLY ROUTINE CHECK OF STUDENT ID CARDDS WAS COMPLETE. TEHRAN BAZAAR IS OPEN AND RELATIVELY RELAXED. REINFORMCED POLICE PRESENCE IN BAZAAR FEB 18-19 HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN.

8. APART FROM ATTACK ON TABRIZ IAS FEB 18, ONLY OTHER INCIDENT WITH ANTI-AMERICAN OVERTONES OCCURRED IN TEHRAN EVENING OF FEB 19 WHEN INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP PAINTED "DOWN WITH THE SHAH," AND "GO HOME AMERICANS" IN PERSIAN ON THREE OF FOUR EXTERIOR WALLS OF COMMUNITY SCHOOL COMPOUND. SCHOOL, WHICH IS TRULY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL FROM GRADES 1-12, BUT WITH MAJORITY U.S. STAFFING, IS SET IN OLDER SECTION OF CITY. SCHOOL OFFICIALS REPORTED MATTER TO POLICE, WHO HELPED SCHOOL PAINT WALLS OVER AND HAVE STATIONED EXTRA POLICEMEN IN AREA FOR NEXT FEW DAYS. THERE HAVE BEEN NO SUBSEQUENT INCIDENTS, AND SCHOOL PRINCIPAL SAYS COMMUNITY RELATIONS WITH SOME 60 OF HIS STAFF WHO LIVE IN VICINITY HAVE BEEN UNIFORMLY GOOD FOR YEARS.

9. COMMENT: GOI STILL ASSESSING SITUATION AND PLAYING INFORMATIONAL CARDS CLOSE TO VEST. SPECULATION IN TEHRAN, IN WAKE OF REVELATIONS OF DAMAGE AND ORGANIZATION OF MOB, HAS TENDED TO SUPPORT THEORY OF SOME KIND OF EXTERNAL INVOLVEMENT, BUT NO EVIDENCE OF THIS HAS BEEN PUT FORWARD YET. ONE IRANIAN CLOSE TO ESTABLISHMENT RELIGIOUS SOURCES SAYS TABRIZIS ARE MORE DEEPLY COMMITTED TO THEIR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND, WHILE PERHAPS NOT AS FANATICAL AS MOSLEMS IN QOM, WOULD BE "MORE LIKELY TO RAISE HELL THAN THEIR WARM WEATHER COUNTERPARTS TO THE SOUTH." IF CONVINCED IT WAS THE THING TO DO. PARLIAMENTARY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEHRAN 01814 02 OF 02 211347Z

CALL FOR TOUGHER ACTION BY GOI IS ENTIRELY PREDICTABLE, AND ONE IMPORTANT RESULT OF RECENT VIOLENCE HAS BEEN TO MAKE MIDDLE-STRATA IRANIANS RETHINK EFFECTS OF OPPOSITIONISM ON SOCIETY. SOME PROFESSORS AND BUSINESSMEN OF OUR ACQUAINTANCE FEEL THINGS REACHED POINT AT TABRIZ WHERE THEIR OWN IMPORTANT VALUES ARE BEGINNING TO BE THREATENED. MANY WHO HAVE THUS FAR TACITLY SUPPORTED MODERATE OPPOSITIONIST HECKLING OF GOI MAY BE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS.
MIKLOS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TEHRAN01814
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780078-0137
Format: TEL
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780231/aaaabade.tel
Line Count: 220
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9ac8b7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 TEHRAN 1710, 78 TEHRAN 1762
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3531888
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TABRIZ RIOTS:AFTERMATH
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, IR
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9ac8b7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014